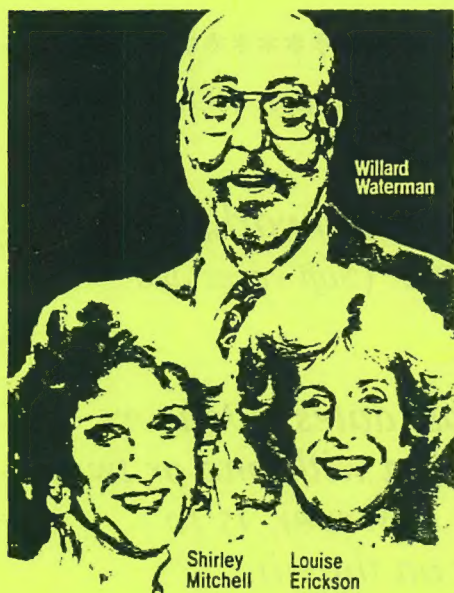




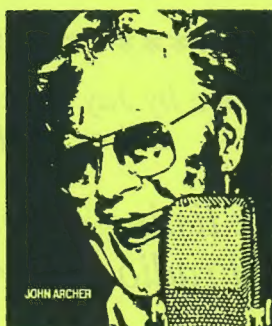
# Newark Weather Report: **Gale Storm predicted** for the **20th Annual** Friends of Old Time Radio Convention Oct. 19-21, 1995 Holiday Inn North · Newark, NJ



Willard  
Waterman

Shirley  
Mitchell

Louise  
Erickson



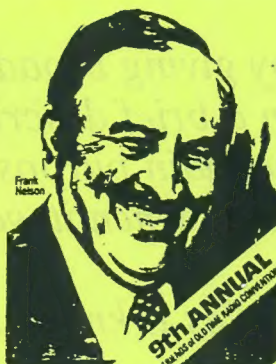
JOHN ARCHER



KENNY  
DELMAR



EZRA  
STONE



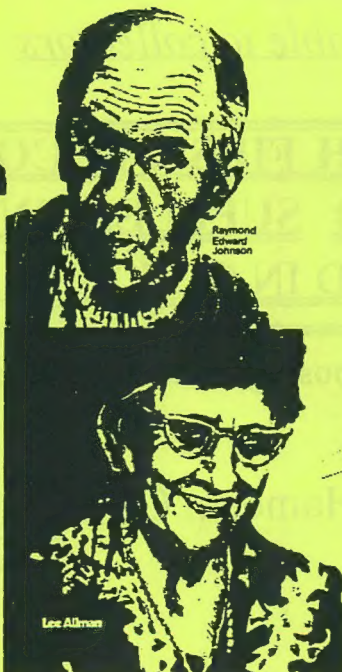
Frank  
Nelson



CARLTON E.  
MORSE



HERB  
ELLIS



Raymond  
Edward  
Johnson

Lee Aldman



Arnold Stang



LON  
CLARK



Parley  
Baer

Bob  
Hastings



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**Programming and Guide to All**  
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\*\*\*\*\*

*written by Jay Hickerson, October, 1992*  
*Editor of Hello Again*

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## SPECIAL GUESTS

**ARTHUR ANDERSON** - *Hotel For Pets, Let's Pretend*

**GEORGE ANSBRO** - (Announcer) ABC

**BARNEY BECK** - Sound Effects Artist (Mutual)

**EUGENE CLARK** - (Engineer for Mutual)

**LON CLARK** - *Nick Carter*

**IVAN CURY** - *Bobby Benson*

**BOB DRYDEN** - *ILAM, Big Town, Cavalcade of America, Gang Busters*

**WIN ELLIOT** - (MC) *Quick as a Flash*

**RAY ERLNBORN** - (Sound effects) *Al Pearce, Gateway to Hollywood*

**FRED FOY** - (Announcer) *The Lone Ranger, Sgt. Preston of the Yukon*

**EARL GEORGE** - *Captain Midnight, Ma Perkins, Doc Savage*

**MARTHA GREENHOUSE** - *Whispering Street, Grand Central Station*

**BOB HASTINGS** - *Archie Andrews*

**ED JORDAN** - (Announcer)

**RAYMOND EDWARD JOHNSON** - *Inner Sanctum, Young Hickory*

**RUTH LAST** - *Let's Pretend, Quiet Please*

**ABBY LEWIS** - *House in the Country, Road of Life*

**PEG LYNCH** - *Ethel and Albert*

**TED MALLIE** (Announcer) Mutual

**MARY JANE MASTAPETER** - (Casting Director)

**PAUL MASTERSON** - (Announcer)

**BILL MURTOUGH** - (Engineer)

**BILL OWEN** - (Announcer for Mutual)

**CLIVE RICE** - *Bobby Benson*

**ROSEMARY RICE** - *Archie Andrews*

**ADELE RONSON** - *Buck Rogers, John's Other Wife*

**TERRY ROSS** - (Sound effects Artist)

**GALE STORM** - *My Little Margie*

**GIL STRATTON, JR** - *My Little Margie*

**DICK VAN PATTEN** - *Aldrich Family, Duffy's Tavern*

**WHIT VERNON** - *Lone Ranger*

**FRANCES von BERNHARDI** - (Casting Director)

**BETTY WRAGGE** - *Pepper Young's Family*

**JANET CANTOR GARI** - Eddie Cantor's Daughter

**BRIAN GARI** - Eddie Cantor's grandson

**SARA KARLOFF** - Daughter of Boris Karloff

**BELA LUGOSI, JR** - Son of Bela Lugosi

**MARLA SLOSBERG** - Daughter of Charlie Cantor

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

**Sutton/Ascot Rooms** will be available much of the time from Thursday through Saturday night. They should be used for interviews, meetings and rehearsals.

**1. No smoking in convention area, please. This means NO SMOKING in halls and near registration area.**

**2. Do not interview in hallways and please do not congest the registration area. Interviews are to be held in the Sutton/Ascot rooms mentioned above.**

**3. Interviews and autographs are NOT to be gotten in the workshop rooms after the workshops. Use the conference rooms or Sutton/Ascot Rooms. We must get ready for the next workshop.**

**4. A cash sandwich bar will be open for lunch on Thursday, Friday and Saturday in convention area. Complimentary coffee, bagels and muffins will be available Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings.**

**5. All audio and video tapes of the convention can be ordered from AVPRO, Box 1392, Lake Elsinore, CA 92531; (909) 244-5242**

## **COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOP LEADERS**

### **GENERAL CHAIRMAN:**

Jay Hickerson

### **PROGRAM AND RE-CREATION DIRECTORS:**

Don Ramlow, Anthony Tollin,

Gary Yoggy, Dave Zwengler, Michael Giorgio, Dave Warren, Max Schmid and Steve Lewis

### **PUBLICITY:**

Manhattan Radio Club

### **CONVENTION GUEST COORDINATORS**

Jeff and Walt Muller

### **RIDE COORDINATOR**

Bill Nadel

### **SOUND ENGINEERS**

Terry Ross, Bill Siudmak

### **SOUND EFFECTS**

Barney Beck, Ray Erlenborn,

Anthony Tollin, Steve Lewis, Bill Nadel, Bob Madison

### **ALL OTHERS:**

Anna Jean Yoggy

Bob Burnham

Bob Burchett

Suzanne Siegel

Joel Senter

Jack French

Dave Easter

Mary Ramlow

Jan Easter

Arlene Sabba

Meridy Erlenborn

Mitchell and Eva Weisberg

David Bakish

Larry and John Gassman

Art Pierce

Gregory Koseluk

Richard Hayes

Raymond Edward Johnson

## **FUTURE CONVENTION DATES:**

1996: October 17 – 19.....1997: October 23 – 25...1998: October 22 – 24



## SCHEDULE – 1995

**Wednesday:** Complimentary Wine and Cheese for overnight guests and committee from about 6 – 10 pm; Dealers can set up starting from 2:30.

**All programs in the Lenox/Tiffany Rooms; All re-creations in the Dresden/Lenox/Tiffany Rooms**

**Readings, meetings in the Sutton/Ascot Rooms**

**Dealers in Conference Rooms and Waterford Rooms**

### **Thursday:**

9:00 – 3:00	Setup of sound equipment
9:00 – 5:00	Dealers
12:30 – 1:00	“Smart Aleck; A Diller, a Dollar, Are You a Ten O’clock Radio Scholar” hosted by Dave Zwengler
1:30 – 2:30	Radio Programs to The Screen with <b>Bob Madison</b>
3:00 – 4:00	TV programs to Radio with <b>Jack French</b>
4:30 – 5:30	OTR, The Computer and The Internet with <b>Bob Burnham</b>
5:30 – 8:00	Cocktails, dinner and raffle
8:00 – 9:00	Tribute to Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi; daughter <b>Sara Karloff</b> and son <b>Bela Lugosi, Jr.</b> will give the tribute
9:15 – 10:15	Re-creation of “The Whistler,” winner of last year’s script contest, with <b>Bob Hastings</b> . <b>Michael Giorgio</b> was the winner

### **Friday Morning and Afternoon**

9:00 – 9:45	<b>Jack French</b> presents WOR: Mutual Memories with <b>Ivan Cury, Clive Rice, Mary Jane Mastapeter, Gene Clark, Barney Beck</b>
10:00 – 10:45	Amos ‘n’ Andy: Harmless entertainment or harmful stereotyping ( <b>Gary Yoggy, Joel Senter, Dave Warren</b> )
11:00 – 11:45	Celebrity’s Wives; our lives with those special men ( <b>Meridy Erlenborn</b> and others)
12:15 – 1:00	The Gotham Radio Players present Lights Out “One Day It Rained Blood.” Directed by <b>Steven M. Lewis</b>
1:15 – 2:00	Tribute to Phil Harris and Alice Faye ( <b>Larry and John Gassman</b> )
2:15 – 3:00	Jimmy Durante on the Radio; presented by <b>David Bakish</b>
3:30 – 4:15	<b>Gary Yoggy</b> presents World War II: Radio reports and celebrates our Victory
4:30 – 5:30	Author’s Panel ( <b>David Bakish, Gary Yoggy, Gregory Koseluk</b> with <b>Brian Gari, Art Pierce, Richard Hayes</b> )

### **Friday Evening**

5:30 – 7:45	Cocktails and Dinner, raffle
7:45 – 8:30	Re-creation of Arsenic and Old Lace starring <b>Dick van Patten</b> and <b>Gale Storm</b> ; introduced by <b>Bela Lugosi, Jr.</b> and <b>Sara Karloff</b> . Announcer is <b>Fred Foy</b> .
8:45 – 10:15	<b>A Radio Review Revue:</b> A salute to 20 years of Friends of Old-time Radio Conventions. Excerpts using original material based on old-time radio characters including <b>Fred Allen, Lone Ranger, Bill Stern, Bob Hope</b> ; Cast includes <b>George Ansbrosio, Lon Clark, George Edwards, Ivan Cury, Bob Hastings, Bobb Lynes, Boogie Woogie Girls and Company E and Karen</b> . Produced and written by <b>Dave Zwengler</b> and <b>Michael Giorgio</b> ; engineered by <b>Max Schmid</b> ; Directed by <b>Arthur Anderson</b>

## **Saturday Morning and Afternoon**

- 9:00 – 10:30 **Buck Rogers in the 25th Century** featuring **Adele Ronson**; From Pulp to Radio – a Workshop; also starring **Lon Clark** as Chick Carter with **Gil Mack**; hosted by **Anthony Tollin**.
- 10:45 – 11:45 Sports Panel (hosted by **Jeff Muller** with **Gil Stratton, Jr** and **Win Elliot**)
- 12:15 – 1:15 **Dave Warren** Players (Re-creations are “Baby Snooks” followed by “Mr. Keen, Tracer of Lost Persons”)
- 1:45 – 2:30 **Raymond Edward Johnson** Presents...
- 3:15 – 4:15 Announcers Panel with **Bill Owen, George Ansbro, Ted Mallie, Fred Foy** and **Ed Jordan**
- 4:30 – 5:30 Re-creation of “Nightbeat”

## **Saturday Evening**

- 5:30 – 7:45 Cocktails and Dinner, raffle, some awards
- 7:45 – 8:00 “Ethel and Albert” with **Peg Lynch** and **Bob Dryden**
- 8:15 – 8:30 “I Remember Mama” retrospect with **Rosemary Rice** and **Dick van Patten**
- 8:45 – 9:15 Awards
- 9:15 – 10:15 Re-creation of “My Little Margie” with **Gale Storm, Dick van Patten, Gil Stratton, Jr.**; Followed by a “Meet the Stars” panel



## REMINISCING

Old-time radio buffs have been honoring the radio stars of yesteryear annually since 1971, when our first old-time radio convention was held. The popularity of the conventions has grown steadily over the past 20 years. The first convention hosted 4 special guests. This year we are honoring over 50 actors, actresses, writers, producers, directors and technicians from the East and West Coasts who made the age of radio a truly golden era. What better way to pay tribute to all our guests than to meet them in person at this, our 20th annual convention of the **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO**, and express the enjoyment their performances brought and still bring to us.

The **FRIENDS OF OLD-TIME RADIO, Inc.** is a group of fans and collectors who meet once a year for this non-profit convention. All monies collected are used for hotel, transportation and other convention costs.

The **Allen Rockford Award** was established in 1979 following the death of Allen Rockford at the age of 35 on March 29. Allen was coeditor with Don Richardson of **Nostalgia Radio News**, an excellent monthly OTR publication. The publication started when Allen started his coverage of stations in central New York and Canada carrying Old-time radio. This led to **Nostalgia Radio News**. Allen was active in putting early radio on central New York stations and carried his own show called **Sounds of Yesterday** for several years on WRVO-FM in Oswego. He was an announcer and newscaster for WONO in Syracuse for many years. With Don Richardson, Allen also ran Double-R-Radio, a business specializing in tapes and recordings of old-time radio shows. Allen was an authority on early radio and constantly helped anyone who needed it.

### RECIPIENTS ALLEN ROCKFORD AWARD

1979	Ken Piletic	1987	SPERDVAC
1980	Charles Ingersoll	1988	Barbara Watkins
	John Dunning		Barry Hill
1981	Charles Stumpf	1989	Bob Burchett
1982	Roger Hill		Terry Salomonson
1983	Ray Stanich	1990	Don Aston
1984	Jim Snyder		Dave Warren
	Bob Burnham	1991	Tom Monroe
1985	Dick Osgood		Anthony Tollin
1986	Frank Bresee	1992	Max Schmid
1993	Jack French		Gary Yoggy
	Larry & John Gassman	1994	Bill Bragg
			David Siegel

### SPECIAL AWARDS

1979	Raymond Edward Johnson	1985	Ken Ross
	Rosa Rio		Terry Ross
1980	Bob Prescott Jr.		Mrs. Brace Beemer
	Pete Prescott		Jay Hickerson
1981	Mike Warren	1986	Max Schmid
1982	(None)	1987	Sidney Slon
1983	Arthur Anderson		Anthony Tollin
	Fran Striker Jr.	1988	Bob Steele and Ezra Stone
1984	Don Richardson	1989	Florence Williams
	Jackson Beck		Dwight Weist
1990	Margot Stevenson		Joe Franklin
	George Ansbros	1991	Fran Carlon
1992	Ken Roberts		Ray Erlenborn
	Peg Lynch		Barney Beck
1993	Lon Clark	1994	Bob Dryden
	Adele Ronson		Arthur Tracy

### DONATIONS

Frank Nelson Scholarship Fund  
Veteran's Bedside Network (5)  
Actor's Fund  
Episcopal Actor's Guild (3)  
OTR Defense Fund  
Heller Memorial Foundation of AFTRA

Society for Singers (2)  
Stephanie Joyce Kahn Foundation (4)  
Thousand Oaks Library  
Billy Rose Collection, N Y Public Library  
Kate Smith Foundation



## CELEBRITY BIOGRAPHIES



### GEORGE ANSBRO

George Ansbro is an announcer with over 50 years of broadcasting experience. Among his many radio credits are such long running and popular soaps as *Young Widder Brown*, *When a Girl Marries*, and *Chaplain Jim*. His sonorous tones could also be heard on *Ethel and Albert*, *Home Sweet Home* and *Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*. He was briefly quizmaster on the musical quiz show *Singo* and holds the distinction of having been television's only Maharajah on *Manhattan Maharajah* from 1950-51.

### EUGENE W. CLARK

Gene started out as a teen-aged pianist for local New York big bands. Played with orchestras of Jack Miles and Russ Wayne. Hired by WKNY in Kingston, NY as musician, announcer and engineer. Later worked at WHRY in Troy, NY in the same capacity. Hired in 1941 at WOR: Mutual where he was the engineer for the shows of Morton Gould, Russell Bennett, and Alfred Wanenstein. Also worked on dramatic shows including *The Shadow*, *Bulldog Drummond*, etc. Most weekends he did WOR remotes from Meadowbrook for all the Big Bands (and occasionally filled in on piano). Later promoted to Chief Engineer of recording division on WOR (RKO Sound Studios) doing commercials and some phonograph sessions. In the late 50s he switched over to Channel 9 TV in NYC where he ran the master control room. Gene is also a composer and one of his pieces, *Powder Puff*, was featured in the repertoire of Shep Fields Orchestra.

### IVAN CURY

Ivan Cury began his broadcasting career as a child actor on radio in the New York City area. He played Bobby Benson from 1949-50 and left that show to become Dickie on *Portia Faces Life*. He worked in radio through high school. After earning a BA in Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon and an MA from Boston College, Cury taught Speech and Theater at Hunter and Adelphi Colleges. Later he was producer/director at WNDT-TV and also directed *The Doctors* and *The Young and Restless*. Currently Cury teaches speech and theater at Cal State University and directs TV commercials for the Men's Wearhouse.

### BOB DRYDAN

Bob Dryden's experience in radio dates back to 1938. During radio's golden age he appeared on hundreds of programs including soaps like *Stella Dallas*, *Pepper Young's Family* and *The Guiding Light*; crime shows like *Big Town*, *Bulldog Drummond*, *Gangbusters* and *The FBI in Peace and War*; and first class drama anthologies like *The Theater Guild on the Air* and *Studio One*. The versatile Dryden also did many commercials. Later he moved into television and was seen on such shows as *Kojak*, *The Jackie Gleason Show*, *Naked City*,



*NYPD, Route 66, The Edge of Night* (for 1 1/2 years) and *Studio One*. He tried his hand at films as well including *Man on a Swing* and *Prince of the City* and narrated the PBS documentary *The Great American Desert*. Radio beckoned Dryden again in 1974 and he appeared in numerous radio plays on *The CBS Radio Mystery Theatre*. Happily for us, Bob has been a frequent participant at the Friends of Old Time Radio Conventions, and he's been especially popular as Albert to Peg Lynch's Ethel.

### ED HERLIHY

Ed Herlihy is one of the most versatile and experienced announcers in broadcasting. His radio credits range from soaps like *Just Plain Bill* and *Life Can Be Beautiful* to quiz and game shows like *Truth or Consequences* and *Melody Puzzles*. Regular fans of *Vic and Sade* and *The O'Neills* would also have heard him. Evening listeners might remember him from *Mr District Attorney*, *The Thin Man*, *The Falcon*, *Inner Sanctum*, *The Henry Morgan Show* and *The Big Show*. Herlihy also did stints on *Dick Tracy*, *Hearts in Harmony*, *Irene Rich Dramas*, as well as *The Horn and Hardart Children's Hour* and *America's Town Meeting*. Movie buffs will remember him as one of Movietone News' best announcers and on television he became the voice of Kraft on *Kraft Television Theatre*, *The Perry Como Show*, and *The Kraft Music Hall*. He was also briefly the announcer on *The Tonight Show* (1962).

### ED JORDAN

Ed Jordan was a staff announcer at ABC with over 35 years of experience and hundreds of radio and TV commercials, voice overs, promos and PSA's to his credit. He was the radio host on *Jazz With Jordan*, *The World of Modern Sound*, *Top of the Town* and many college jazz festivals. Jordan served as TV show announcer on game shows like *The 20,000 Pyramid* and *The Price is Right*, dramas such as *Man In a Suitcase* and comedy favorites like *The Donna Reed Show* as well as ABC News. Jordan also has acting experience in films such as *The Seven-Ups* and *Cops and Robbers*, TV dramas like *The Kraft Theater* and *Suspense* as well as on the stage in the road company of *The Heiress* and in five seasons of summer stock.

### MARY JANE MASTAPETER

Mary Jane Mastapeter was hired at Mutual at WOR in 1945 as file clerk. Worked up the ladder to receptionist, secretary, and then finally, adm. asst. to VP of Programming (Herb Rice). Assisted in casting many Mutual shows. Wrote, auditioned, and accompanied young singers for *Fulton Lewis Jr. Choir Show*. From 1951-55, was Network representative for *Bobby Benson* and the *B-Bar-B Riders* and traveled throughout the U.S. as chaperon for "Bobby Benson", frequently accompanied by Don Knotts. She left Mutual in 1956 to start a free-lance TV program agency. Later joined the staff of EPI, who produced TV's *\$64,000 Question* and *\$64,000 Challenge*.





## GIL STRATTON

Veteran sports broadcaster Gill Stratton's broadcasting career began more than 30 years ago. Gil attended Poly Prep in Brooklyn and graduated from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY. He began his acting career on Broadway in *Life With Father* and *Best Foot Forward*. Following service as a bombardier in the Army Air Corps during World War II, he resumed his acting career in Hollywood in such films as *Stalag 17*, *The Wild One*, *Girl Crazy* and *Bundle of Joy*. He also appeared on radio in the popular *My Little Margie* series, and on television as Eddie Mayehoff's unathletic son in *That's My Boy*. He has also been in *General Hospital*, *Trapper John*, *Baretta*, *Quincy*, and *Sextette* with Mae West. Stratton entered the TV business in the mid-50s as Sports Director of KCBS-TV (then KNXT). During his 20-year tenure at the station, he received multi-awards from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (Emmys), the California Associated Press Television and Radio Association, and the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California (Golden Mikes). He has covered the whole spectrum of sports including golf, tennis, track and field, hockey, soccer, baseball, the Kentucky Derby and feature races from Santa Anita, Hollywood Park and Del Mar. He reported from the 1960 Summer Olympic Games in Rome, and was the one-time "Voice of the Los Angeles Rams."

## GALE STORM

Gale Storm, star of television, motion pictures, recording, stage and night clubs was born Josephine Owaissa Cottle, the youngest of five children in Bloomington, a small town in central Texas. During her high school years, two of her teachers, impressed by her acting talent, encouraged her to enter a popular nationwide talent search on network radio called *Gateway to Hollywood*. After winning the local contest in Houston, she was brought to Hollywood where she won the national contest and, along with it, the professional name, "GALE STORM" and a contract with RKO studios where she completed her schooling while starring in a variety of parts, including dramas, musicals and westerns, all of which afforded her the opportunity to display and perfect her versatility and extraordinary talent. It was not long before television recognized her unusual capabilities and developed *My Little Margie* for her which became an immediate success. During the following four years and 126 episodes, millions of fans watched her sparkling performances on television and listened to her on radio as well, since separate episodes of *Margie* were performed live weekly on network radio during that period. Following her gigantic success as *My Little Margie*, Miss Storm starred in another equally successful television series titled *The Gale Storm Show, Oh Susanna*. In this series she played the role of the social director on a cruise ship. As a more serious artist, Miss Storm returned to the live stage, starring in *Wish You Were Here* and performed the role of Letitia in Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Old Maid and the Thief* at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music. Then, in a change of career direction, Miss Storm signed her first popular recording contract and went from a lyric soprano to a "pop" recording artist. Her first record, *I Hear You Knockin* was a sensation, selling over a million copies and winning for her a Gold record. In the next five years, her hits included *Teen Age Prayer*, *Memories are Made of This*, *Dark Moon*, and *Ivory Tower*. As a recording star, she sold over six million records in a series of hits. Gale is married to former ABC West Coast Vice President Paul C. Masterson.



## DICK VAN PATTEN

Dick Van Patten began as a child actor on radio (appearing on such shows as *The Aldrich Family*, *Duffy's Tavern*, *Reg'lar Fellas*, *That Brewster Boy*, *Let's Pretend*, and *Young Widder Brown*) and has been 50 years in show business. His mother pushed him into an MGM audition when he was six; although it resulted in a contract and a trip to Hollywood, he did not enter films at that time. Instead, he got his first role onstage, at seven, as Melvyn Douglas's son in the 1935 play *Tapestry in Gray*. For the next dozen years little Dickie Van Patten (as he was billed) was one of New York's busiest juvenile actors, appearing with the great stars of the day in such plays as George Kaufman's *The American Way* (for two years), *The Skin of Our Teeth*, and *Oh Mistress Mine*, the latter beginning a long association with Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne. Dickie's only movie as a juvenile was the 1941 release *Reg'lar Fellers*. At twenty, when many child actors find their careers declining, Dick won the role of eldest son Nels in the TV family show *Mama*, which ran for eight years. So grateful was he that he named his first born son Nels, after the character he played. Dick's career did slow down in the 60s, when he made only occasional appearances onstage, in films (eg., *Charly*), and in episodes of such series as *I Dream of Jeannie* and *That Girl*. He also had a short stint on the daytime serial *Young Doctor Malone*. However, during the 70s he was busier, playing amiable but often flustered middle-aged men, notably the dad on the highly popular *Eight Is Enough*.

## BETTY WRAGGE

A native New Yorker, Betty Wragge appeared in her first Broadway production with Louis Calhern playing her father. After that initial bow, she attended the Professional Children's School and performed in twelve other Broadway dramas including the role of "Drina" in Sydney Kingsley's *Dead End* which ran for over two years at the Belasco Theatre. *A Trip to Chinatown*, *The Sound of Music*, *Gigi*, and *Oliver* headline Ms. Wragge's musical credits. Starting as the stand-by for Ruby Keeler, she was starred on Broadway as "Sue Smith" in *No, No, Nanette*. On tour with Cyril Ritchard and Ms Keeler, she played the role of "Pauline" in the same show. Ms. Wragge's radio experience began with *Pepper Young's Family*, a daily Proctor and Gamble NBC Soap Opera. The show enjoyed such a long run that she was first cast as the eight-year-old kid sister "Peggy Young" and wound up the series playing the ingenue lead. Ms Wragge's radio credits range from voice-over commercials to Soap Operas. She has acted on *Armstrong Circle Theatre*, *Celanese*, *The Ed Sullivan Show* and has done running parts on *The Secret Storm*, *Love of Life*, and *A Brighter Day*. Ms Wragge has taught both teachers and students from all over the country at conventions held in New York City by International Dance Seminars and the National Association of Dancers and Affiliated Artists. Her Showcase Studio is on 57th Street in New York City.



*These biographies were prepared by Gary A. Yoggy from available information with thanks to Jack French.*



## A Look at the Past

Old-time radio conventions were held in Connecticut starting in 1971. It was in 1976 that The Friends of Old-time Radio was formed. The first two years from 1976 to 1977, the conventions were held at the Holiday Inn in Meriden, Connecticut. The next four years they were held at the Holiday Inn in Bridgeport, Connecticut. This is the 14th year it is being held at the Holiday Inn-North in Newark, New Jersey.

**1976.** **Jackson Beck** and **Raymond Edward Johnson** were present at this one day convention and have been present about every year since. **Jack Beck**, **Evie Juster**, **James Maloney**, **Lee Stanley** and **Don MacLaughlin** starred in "The FBI in Peace and War." **Ham O'Hara** provided the sound effects. 160 fans and guests were present. Members of the original committee were Julie and Larry DeSalvatore, Ann and Peter Greco, Lora Palmer, Joe Webb, Stu Weiss, Carol and Bob Witte. Lora and Stu still attend on a regular basis.

**1977.** **Rosa Rio** provided organ music and would do for several years. "Our Gal Sunday" and "The Shadow" starring **Mandel Kramer** and **Grace Matthews** were presented. **Ed Blainey** provided the sound effects. **Warren Somerville** directed. Other new guests present were **Court Benson**, **Fred Foy**, **James Monks**, **Vicki Vola** and **Blair Walliser**. **Ken Piletic** joined the committee.

**1978.** Performed was "The Romance of Helen Trent" starring **Alice Reinheart**. "Front Page Farrell" and "Counterspy" were also performed. Some new guests present were **Lee Allman**, **George Ansbro**, **Ira Ashley**, **Bob Dixon** and **Betty Wragge**. **Bob Prescott** senior and junior helped **Ed Blainey** with the sound effects.

**1979.** The convention began Friday evening this year. The first Allen Rockford Award was given to **Ken Piletic**. **Anthony Tollin** came for the first year and presented a Shadow slide show. Performed were "Joyce Jordan," "Mark Trail" starring **Jackson Beck** and "Yours Truly, Johnny Dollar" starring **Mandel Kramer** and **Don MacLaughlin**. Also present were **Ralph Bell**, **Ward Byron**, **Bill Griffis**, **Art Hanna**, **Peg Lynch**, **Ted Mallie**, **Ian Martin**, **Ted Malone**, **Arnold Stang** and **Sybil Trent**. We began getting more fans from all over the country and Canada. **Bob Prescott** and his two sons, **Bob** and **Pete** were now doing the sound effects.

**1980.** Performed were Cinderella from "Let's Pretend" with **Arthur Anderson**, **Gwen Davies**, **Don Hughes**, **Evie Juster**, **Bill Lipton** and **Sybil Trent**. **Jay Hickerson** presented the first of several sing-a-longs. Also presented were "Strange" hosted by **Walter Gibson** and Death Across the Board from "Inner Sanctum" hosted by **Ray Johnson**. Also present were **Fran Carlon**, **Betty Tyler Karp** and **Rita Lloyd**.

**1981.** The conventions were now being video taped by **Ken Piletic**. They had up to this point just been audio taped. **Bob Burchett** was our unofficial photographer almost every year. Re-created were "My True Story," and "Nick Carter" with **Lon Clark** and **Charlotte Manson**. **Arthur Tracy** entertained us with songs for the first of several conventions. New guests present included **Nancy Douglass**, **Elspeth Eric**, **Teri Keane**, **Ann Loring**, **Arnold Moss**, **Bill Owen**, **Sidney Slon** and a special appearance by **Kenny Delmar**.

**1982.** The convention was now in Newark. Re-creations included "Aunt Jenny," and "The Green Hornet" with **Dwight Weist**, **Ezra Stone**, **Jack Beck** and **Lee Allman**. Some new guests present were **Don Buka**, **Jack Grimes**, **Abby Lewis**, **Dick Osgood**, **Frank Papp**, **Ruth Russell**, **Terry Ross**, **Jane Ward**, **Florence Williams** and **Alice Yourman**. **Terry Ross** now handled the sound effects. **Karen Hickerson** entertained us with a few songs for the first of several times.



**1983.** The convention now lasted 2 days. From now on until 1992 we have had at least 45 dealers. **Parley Baer** was our first West Coast guest. Re-created were *The Brave Little Tailor* from "Let's Pretend" directed by **Arthur Anderson** with much of the original cast. **Anthony Tollin** directed "The Shadow" with **Ken Roberts, Margot Stevenson, Gertrude Warner and Jack Beck**. Some new guests present were **Joan Bishop, Nancy Coleman, Helen Coule, Cliff Carpenter, Ruth Duskin, Bob Guilbert, Pat Hosley, Ernest Ricca, Karl Weber and Miriam Wolff**. **Rosa Rio and Ted Malone** put on a musical program. **Anthony Tollin** began coordinating the re-creations, something **Joe Webb** had done up to this time.

**1984.** Re-created were "Mr. District Attorney" with **Dwight Weist and Vicki Vola** and "Grand Central Station." Coming from the West Coast were **Frank Nelson and Veola Vonn**. **Eddie Layton** provided the music. Some new guests present were **Margaret Draper, Helene Dumas, Edith Meiser, Stella Reynolds, Adele Ronson, Joe DeSantis and Arthur Peterson**.

**1985.** At our 10th annual convention **Bill Robson and Lucille Fletcher** watched a re-creation of "Sorry, Wrong Number." One of the highlights was the re-creation of "The Lone Ranger" with many of the original cast performing. Also re-created was "Superman" starring **Jackson Beck**. **Leta Beemer Peterson**, widow of **Brace Beemer**, received a posthumous award for **Brace Beemer**. Some new guests present were **Lee Alan, Tony Caminita, Humphrey Davis, Tom Dougall, Fred Flowerday, Jim Fletcher, Ernie Winstanley, Whit Vernon**.

**1986.** **Willard Waterman** attended from California and starred in "The Great Gildersleeve" with **Shirley Mitchell and Louise Erickson**. Also re-created were "The Aldrich Family" with **Ezra Stone** and much of the original cast. **Gilbert Mack** entertained us with songs and patter. Also re-created was "The Whistler." Other new guests present were **Vivian Della Chiesa and Sara Seeger**. The Dave Warren Players made their initial of many performances with "Tom Mix." **Don Ramlow** began video taping our events and still does. We also started to hand out a larger program with ads, biographies and pictures.

**1987.** **Barney Beck and Ray Erlenborn** now worked with **Terry Ross** on the sound effects. We did our first of 3 *Gateway to Hollywood* re-creations. Winners were **Carolyn Senter and David Zwengler**. Joining us from California were **John Archer, Les Tremayne and Bill Zuckert**. "The Thin Man" was re-created with **Les Tremayne** in the title role. Also re-created were "Young Widder Brown" with **Les Tremayne and Adele Ronson** and "Big Town" with **Fran Carlon, Mason Adams and Dwight Weist**. We started giving donations to worthy organizations. Some new guests were **Eric Arthur, Judith Bublick, Laurette Fillbrandt, Joseph Kahn, Joseph Nathan Kane, Elaine Kent, Joyce Randolph and Bob Steel**.

**1988.** The convention now began on Thursday evening. About 600 people attend the convention. **Arnold Moss** was featured in the re-creation of "Cabin B-13." **Carlton E. Morse** attended from California and watched the re-creation of "I Love a Mystery" with **Bob Dryden and Alice Reinheart**. Also from California were **Bob Hastings, Jackie Kelk and Richard Wilson**. **Jackson Beck** was featured in another re-creation of "Superman." **Arthur Anderson** directed a third episode of "Let's Pretend." **Robin Fields and Bill Daugherty** entertained us. Some new guests present were **Jeanne Harrison, Hildegard, Robert E. Lee, Jan Miner, Larry Robinson and Joan Shea**. During the evening festivities on Saturday, we were interrupted by an updated version of "War of the Worlds."

**1989.** Child stars were honored with a panel on Growing Up in Radio. Participating were **Ray Erlenborn, Charlie Mullen, Ezra Stone, Jean Gillespie, Arthur Anderson, Bob Hastings, Teri Keane and George Ward**. Re-creations included "Nick Carter" with **Lon Clark and Charlotte Manson**; "Archie Andrews" with **Bob Hastings and Charlie Mullen**; "Mandrake" with **Raymond Johnson**; "The March of Time" with **Arnold Moss and Dwight Weist**. New guests present also included **Lee Falk, Earl George, Ross Martindale, Charles Woods and Margaret Whiting**. Our convention became international with the attendance of **Barry Hill** from England. We started inviting authors. **Robert Taylor** talked about his book, "Fred Allen."



**1990.** Although Jack Benny never attended, his daughter **Joan** made the first of 3 visits. "You Can't Take it With You" was re-created with **Margot Stevenson, Abby Lewis, Ezra Stone, Rosemary Rice** and **Florence Williams**. Other re-creations included Dracula from "The Mercury Theater" with **Elliott Reid, Richard Wilson, Arthur Anderson, Bill Herz** and **Burgess Meredith**. **Norman Corwin** directed "The Plot to Overthrow Christmas" with **Burgess Meredith, Dwight Weist** and **Arthur Anderson**. The first of our variety type shows was also presented with "A Tribute to CBS." Other new guests included **Hendrik Booraem, Jr., Phyllis Creore, Betty Mandeville** and **Betty Winkler**.

**1991.** The convention now started at 2 pm on Thursday. During the earlier conventions we often had trivia contests. Dave Zwengler presented the first of several quiz shows this year. Re-creations included "The Bickersons" with **Shirley Mitchell** and **Sam Edwards**; "Buck Rogers" with **Adele Ronson**; "Ethel and Albert" with **Peg Lynch** and **Bob Dryden**; "The FBI in Peace and War" with **George Petrie** and **John Archer**; "The Great Gildersleeve" with **Willard Waterman, Shirley Mitchell** and **Louise Erickson**; "Gunsmoke" with **Jack Beck** as Matt Dillon and **Parley Baer** as Chester. **Ray Kemper** provided the sound patterns. Other new guests present were **Harry Bartell, Bob Bell, Vivian Block, Oscar Brand, Bob Bruce, Lillian Buyeff, Harry Fleetwood, Ruth Last, Tyler McVey, Francis von Bernhardi**.

**1992.** The convention now opened Wednesday evening with complimentary wine and cheese for the overnight guests. We have always provided complimentary muffins, Danish and coffee in the mornings plus hors d'oeuvres Thursday, Friday and Saturday during the cocktail hour. Dealers now could open 9 am on Thursday. We had two panels Thursday afternoon. We also started having children of performers give a special presentation Thursday evenings. This year Chris Costello, Bud Abbott, Jr. and Paddy Costello Humphreys attended. Re-creations included "X-1" Chain of Command; "Archie Andrews" with **Bob Hastings** and **Hal Stone**; "Dragnet" with **Herb Ellis, Harry Bartell** and **Peggy Webber**; "Street and Smith Detective Story Hour" with **Adele Ronson, Dick Osgood, Ken Roberts** and **Lon Clark**; "Inner Sanctum" with **Raymond Johnson**; John Rayburn presented his first of many spoonerism. Other new guest present were **Dick Beals, Vanessa Brown, Fred Collins, Win Elliot, Don Hastings, Corinne Orr, Eleanor Phelps, Clive Rice, Anne Sargent**.

**1993.** Arthur Godfrey was saluted with Lee Munsick leading 2 panels with such guests as **Lee Erwin, Bill Murtough, Ward Byron, Sy Shaffer, Carmel Quinn** and others. Al Jolson was honored on Thursday. About 700 people attend our conventions now. The **Boogie Woogie Girls and Company E** entertained us for the first time. Re-creations included "Doc Savage" with **Fred Foy** and **Earl George**; "Sherlock Holmes" with **Frankie Thomas** and **Earl George**; "Tom Corbett" with the original cast including **Frankie Thomas, Jan Merlin, Ed Bryce, Al Markim, Jackson Beck** and **George Gould**; "The Mysterious Traveler." We were also entertained with "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts." Other new guests included **Elaine Hyman, Florence James, Maxine Marx, Lucile Mason**.



## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

1994

The Friends of Old-time Radio held its 19th Annual Convention from October 20th – 22nd, 1994 at the Holiday Inn – North, Newark, New Jersey. Celebrities present who received awards were: **George Balzer, Bob Drew, Dick Dudley, Ed Kemmer, Rex Koury and Jeanette Nolan.** Other celebrities present were **Arthur Anderson, George Ansbro, John and Ann Archer, Barney Beck, Jackson Beck, Vivian Block, Warren Bryan, Lon Clark, Gwen Davies, Bob Dryden, Ray Erlenborn, Lee Erwin, Harry Fleetwood, Earl George, Bob Hastings, Pat Hosley, Florence James, Raymond Edward Johnson, Rita Lloyd, Ted Mallie, Charlotte Manson, Bill Murtough, Clive Rice, Rosemary Rice, Rosa Rio, Adele Ronson, Terry Ross, Joan Shea, Margot Stevenson, Hal Stone, Arthur Tracy, Sybil Trent and Jane Ward.** The guests socialized with fans, participated in panels and workshops and re-created 6 radio shows.

The convention began Wednesday evening with complimentary wine and cheese for the overnight guests. About 60 people attended. On Thursday, many dealers opened at 9 am. There was one afternoon workshop: **John Rayburn** presented "The Thrilling Days of Yesteryear." Then we had cocktails and dinner. Sixty-three fans attended during the day. One hundred forty-eight fans and guests attended in the evening. The highlight of the evening were **Janet Cantor Gari** and **Brian Gari** who reminisced about Eddie Cantor. Also introduced were **Marla Slosberg** whose father was **Charlie Cantor** and **Tracey Campbell** whose parents were **Nora Marlowe** and **James McCallion.** **Barney Beck** also reminisced. The winner of the original radio play was announced. The winner was **Michael Giorgio.** The play will be presented next year.

Friday began at 9:00 with the opening of the dealers room. Sixty dealer tables were active during the convention. Two hundred thirty-nine people attended dinner with another 108 in the afternoon. Workshops and panels included the following: **Jack French** talked about Aviation Heroes; **Tim Coco** and friends gave a tribute to **Fred Allen**; **Mitchell Weisberg** ran a quiz show; **The Gotham Radio Players** present **Lights Out, "The Bark of the Dead Dog;"** **Mike Mandel,** with the help of **Rosa Rio, Rex Koury and Lee Erwin** presented a panel on Music and Its Interaction with Drama and Comedy; **Raymond Edward Johnson** gave another of his stirring readings; **Dave Zwengler** hosted "America's Town Meeting;" **Larry and John Gassman** with the help of **George Balzer** gave a tribute to **Jack Benny.** After dinner **The Boogie Woogie Girls and Company E** entertained us with songs. **Jeanette Nolan** was then featured in a re-creation of **Escape;** then **Arthur Anderson, Gordon Kelley, Fran Striker, Jr., and Jordan Young** talked about their books.

Saturday the panels and workshops included the following: **Dave Zwengler** presented his quiz show; **Gary Yoggy** presented a look at Christmas Programs; **Lon Clark and Margot Stevenson** were featured in **The Comic Weekly Man;** **Arthur Anderson** hosted a panel with many former child actors. **Bob Hastings, Rosemary Rice, Hal Stone, Joan Shea, Pat Hosley and Dick Dudley** were then featured in a re-creation of **Archie Andrews;** **George Edwards** presented a panel on classical music in radio with the help of **George Jelinek, Howard Taubman** and others; An episode of the **Shadow** was then presented featuring **John Archer, Margot Stevenson, Ted Mallie** and others.

Saturday's events culminated with cocktails and buffet dinner for 318 people with another 177 coming for the day. After dinner **Arthur Anderson** then led an all star cast of former child actors in a re-creation of **Let's Pretend, "Rumpelstiltskin;"** A variety show ended the program featuring **Charlotte Schaefer, Eddie Layton, Al Monroe** who accepted our donation to **The Society of Singers** and a surprise guest, **Les Paul.** The program wound up with **Will Jordan** who entertained us with his comedy and impressions.

Besides the awards mentioned earlier, two Allen Rockford Awards were presented to **Bill Bragg and Dave Siegel** for their outstanding efforts in keeping radio alive. Special awards were given to **Arthur Tracy and Bob Dryden.** Both have attended our convention for several years and have always been willing to help. Other donations were given to the **Veteran's Bedside Network, The Stephanie Joyce Kahn Foundation, The Episcopal Actors Guild and Heller Memorial Foundation of AFTRA.**

I again want to thank all the guests who were very gracious in granting interviews and giving of their time to be with us.



## All Our Previous Guests

Mason Adams	Bob Dixon	Joseph Kahn	Hamilton O'Hara	Willard Waterman
Lee Alan	Peter Donald	Joseph Nathan Kane	Corinne Orr	Jean Francis Webb
Lee Allman	Tom Dougall	Betty Tyler Karp	Dick Osgood	Peggy Webber
Arthur Anderson	Nancy Douglas	Teri Keane	Bill Owen	Karl Weber
George Ansbro	Margaret Draper	Jackie Kelk	Frank Papp	Fred Weihe
John Archer	Bob Drew	Ed Kemmer	Les Paul	Liz Weiss
Eric Arthur	Bob Dryden	Ray Kemper	Patricia Peardon	Rube Weiss
Ira Ashley	Dick Dudley	Elaine Kent	Jack Pearl	Dwight Weist
Parley Baer	Ruth Duskin	Ernest Kinoy	Arthur Peterson	Margaret Whiting
George Balzer	Helene Dumas	Rex Koury	George Petrie	Irene Wicker
Harry Bartell	Sam Edwards	Mandel Kramer	Eleanor Phelps	Florence Williams
Dick Beals	Anne Elstner	Maria Lambarelli	Beatrice Pons	Richard Wilson
Barney Beck	Win Elliot	Ruth Last	Bob Prescott, Jr.	Betty Winkler
Jackson Beck	Herb Ellis	Jim Lawrence	Bob Prescott, Sr.	Ernie Winstanley
Bob Bell	Elspeth Eric	Eddie Layton	Pete Prescott	Miriam Wolff
Joan Benny	Louise Erickson	Robert E. Lee	Carmel Quinn	Charles Woods
Court Benson	Ray Erlenborn	Abby Lewis	Joyce Randolph	Betty Wragge
Frank Bingman	Lee Erwin	Bill Lipton	Elliott Reid	Alice Yourman
Joan Bishop	Lee Falk	Rita Lloyd	Alice Reinheart	Bill Zuckert
Ed Blainey	Peter Fernandez	Ann Loring	Stella Reynolds	
Vivian Block	John Fiedler	Peg Lynch	Ernest Ricca	
Hendrik Booraem, Jr.	Laurette Fillbrandt	Gilbert Mack	Clive Rice	
Roger Bower	Harry Fleetwood	Don MacLaughlin	Rosemary Rice	
Oscar Brand	Jim Fletcher	Ted Mallie	Rosa Rio	
Himan Brown	Lucille Fletcher	Ted Malone	Ken Roberts	
Vanessa Brown	Fred Flowerday	James Maloney	Larry Robinson	
Warren Bryan	Fred Foy	Betty Mandeville	William N. Robson	
Bob Bruce	Joe Franklin	Charlotte Manson	Lynne Rogers	
Ed Bryce	Ruth Franklin	Al Markim	Adele Ronson	
Judith Bublick	Earl George	Audrey Marsh	Terry Ross	
Donald Buka	Walter Gibson	Sanford Marshall	Ruth Russell	
Lillian Buyeff	Jean Gillespie	Ian Martin	Anne Sargent	
Ward Byron	George Gould	Ross Martindale	Sara Seegar	
Tony Caminita	Bill Griffis	Maxine Marx	Joan Shea	
Fran Carlon	Jack Grimes	Lucile Mason	Sidney Slon	
Cliff Carpenter	Bob Guilbert	Grace Matthews	Warren Somerville	
Lon Clark	Larry Haines	Jack McCarthy	William Spier	
Mildred Clinton	Art Hanna	Tyler McVey	Arnold Stang	
Nancy Coleman	Jeanne Harrison	Edith Meiser	Lee Stanley	
Fred Collins	Bob Hastings	Burgess Meredith	Bob Steel	
Patrick Conlon	Don Hastings	Jay Meredith	Margot Stevenson	
Norman Corwin	Claire Hazel	Jan Merlin	Ezra Stone	
Helen Coule	Bill Hengstebeck	Jan Miner	Hal (Harlan) Stone	
Staats Cotsworth	Ed Herlihy	Shirley Mitchell	Frankie Thomas	
Peter Cranford	Bill Herz	James Monks	Arthur Tracy	
Phyllis Creore	Mary Jane Higby	John Moore	Les Tremayne	
Richard Dana	Hildegard	Elizabeth Morgan	Sybil Trent	
Gwen Davies	Gladys Holland	Bret Morrison	Whit Vernon	
Humphrey Davis	Pat Hösley	Carlton E. Morse	Chuck Verral	
Carol Deis	Jack Houseknecht	Arnold Moss	Vicki Vola	
Alfred De La Fuente	Don Hughes	Bob Mott	Frances von Bernhardi	
Vivian Della Chiesa	Elaine Hyman	Charles Mullen	Veola Vonn	
Joseph DeSantis	Florence James	Bill Murtough	Blair Walliser	
Kenny Delmar	Dora Johnson	John Nanovic	George Ward	
Nat Dickerson	Raymond E. Johnson	Frank Nelson	Jane (Colleen) Ward	
Sam Diggs	Evie Juster	Jeanette Nolan	Gertrude Warner	



## BIG BAND REMOTES REVISITED

by E.D. "Buddy" Thompson

A present day big band radio station in Nashville says, "Old radio brings back the good times."

As a kid growing up in the thirties and forties, I was struck by a disease brought on by the big band remotes from which I have never recovered. I can sit and listen to **Glenn Miller** coming from the Cafe Rouge of the Pennsylvania Hotel right now on tape and enjoy it the same as I did back when it was live.

The big bands of the swing era had a national outlet for their promotion. Back then when a bandstand was built in a hotel or ballroom, it was wired for radio remote broadcasting.

Whether the remote was **Benny Goodman** coming from the Hotel New Yorker, **Tommy Dorsey** from the Glen Island Casino, **Harry James** from the Hollywood Palladium, **Cab Calloway** from the Savoy Ballroom, **Gene Krupa** from the Hotel Astor Roof, or **Chuck Foster** from the Hotel Peabody in Memphis, there was something about hearing that opening theme that electrified everyone as they awaited the announcement of the opening number. It was more exciting if T.D., Glenn, Benny, or Artie announced the number or vocalist personally.

The big bands played such great arrangements (which we now refer to as charts) with very clean ensemble, intonation, balance, and phrasing. Yes, as a kid I was struck! All I could think about was becoming a musician.

The bands got paid for playing before the audience; but, more importantly, they publicized their new record release and made stars of their instrumentalists and vocalists by way of the radio remotes that went out over the networks to the nation.

The network would send a staff announcer over to the particular hotel or ballroom for the remote broadcast. Great excitement would surround the ballroom as well as radio listeners around the country as the pear-shaped tones of the announcer might say, "Coming to you from Frank Dailey's Meadowbrook, just off the Pompton Turnpike in Cedar Grove, New Jersey, we present the music of Charlie Barnet and His Orchestra." An emotion of exhilaration struck everyone as the band opened with its theme song.

Yes, for me, "Old radio brings back the good times."

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E.D. "Buddy" Thompson was born and reared in Nashville. He played professionally as a musician at WLAC and WSM radio in Nashville. He played with many local bands which led to playing dates with such leaders as Mitchell Ayres as well as three dates with Duke Ellington. He has played in orchestras backing up such artists as Margaret Whiting, Kate Smith, Engelbert Humperdinck, Sonny & Cher, Bobby Goldsboro, and Ray Stevens. His formal training has enabled him to play in symphony orchestras, recording dates, and teach on several college music faculties. His son, Jeff Thompson, is an announcer at WAMB, the big band radio station in Nashville.



## "RADIO'S GOLDEN COMEDIANS"

by Frank Bresee

GROUCHO MARX, BOB HOPE, JIMMY DURANTE, GEORGE BURNS, EDGAR BERGEN, RUDY VALLEE, MILTON BERLE, and JACK BENNY. That's quite a line-up, isn't it? These radio stars and a hundred more have joined me on my "GOLDEN DAYS OF RADIO" program since it went on the air in 1966, reminiscing about those good ol' days.

Durante, in 1967, told me about the time his father came out here to Hollywood to visit. He had been a barber all of his life and brought his shears with him, cutting the stars hair, in order to make some extra money. You see, the elder Durante, never thought his son's career would last, and always tried to convince him to earn an honest living. Luckily for all of us, he chose show business.

Mr. Durante told me about his first radio series which went on the air in 1933, and was broadcast from the studios on Melrose, which are now being used by KHJ (radio and TV). Each week after the Durante show was over, the audience was asked to stay, because the program that followed featured comedian Will Rogers in a special guest spot. The show actually originated in New York, but they would switch to Hollywood about ten minutes into the program for the Will Rogers spot. Durante told me that he always felt sorry for the audience because of the length of time they had to sit on the hard wooden seats that were provided. To most people, Jimmy Durante has been known affectionately as "the sweetest guy in show business", and he certainly deserves that title.

Jack Benny was on my show in 1970, and he talked about his feud with Fred Allen and his early radio programs long before he began broadcasting for Jell-O. As you know, his first radio appearance was as a guest on Ed Sullivan's radio interview show on WHN in early 1932. His first lines on the radio were, "This is Jack Benny talking. There will be a slight pause while you say; Who cares?" Later on that year, he began his first regular radio program on which he acted as emcee on two weekly half-hour shows, Monday and Friday. The program was sponsored by Canada Dry. In October of that same year, Jack joined NBC for the first time on the General Motors Chevrolet program and the following year, General Tires began as sponsor for one season. In 1935, he began his first show with General Foods, makers of Jell-O, and his opening line, "Jell-O again," stayed with him throughout his career. When Jack appeared on the KFI 50th Anniversary program in 1972, which I wrote and produced, we used that line to introduce him, "Jell-O again, this is Jack Benny for KFI."

The funniest gag ever attributed to Jack Benny and the Jack Benny Show was, of course, the "Your money or your life" routine with the long pause. Benny, however, felt that the funniest part of the gag was his line, "I'm thinking it over." I'm inclined to agree with Mr. Benny. He will be missed by all of us. It is, however, nice to know that the re-runs of the Jack Benny show on CBS in August, obtained high ratings and that given this renewed interest, we all may continue to enjoy Jack Benny for years to come.



Rudy Vallee has always been a great favorite. He is a legend in his own time, and the premiere radio host and comedian. His Fleischmann Hour went on the air in 1929, and for the next ten years, Rudy introduced to the country, virtually every famous personality in the world at that time. His program first featured dramatic sketches with Broadway stars, documentary segments, one of the first situation comedies; the Aldrich Family, and in their very first radio appearance, Eddie Cantor, Carmen Miranda, Red Skelton and even Edgar Bergen with Charlie McCarthy.

Rudy Vallee's home in Hollywood is a memorabilia museum and over the years, he has been most generous in opening it for charitable causes. The first time I met Rudy was in 1970 at the AFRTS studios in Hollywood when he came to record one of my shows. As we were talking about his career, he mentioned that he was one of the first to recognize the talents of Arthur Godfrey, who, in his early years, was known as "The Warbling Banjo Player" on station WTOP in Washington, D.C. While driving from Washington to New York one night, Rudy heard him on the air and sent him a telegram suggesting that he would be happy to help Mr. Godfrey further his career in New York City, (an offer that was, incidentally, accepted by Mr. Godfrey)

As a gag, I asked Rudy if he had sent the telegram collect. He looked me square in the eye, said, "if you are going to talk like that, I am going to leave," and started to get up. Fortunately, I was able to calm him down and we have been close friends ever since. His most recent appearance on my program was in July to celebrate his 77th birthday.

The man that Jack Benny always called "The Comedians Comedian," George Burns joined me on the Golden Days of Radio in November of last year. We talked about his long career in show business and the fact that he feels that meeting and marrying Gracie Allen was the luckiest thing that ever happened to them. Their first radio appearance was in 1930 when they were in London. The BBC put them on the air on their own program where they stayed for 26 weeks. Their next radio appearance was back in this country when George and Gracie were appearing at the Palace Theatre in New York in 1931. Eddie Cantor who had his own show at that time, suggested that Gracie appear with him, sans George. She stole the show from Eddie and Burns and Allen were immediately sought by all the variety shows on the air, including Rudy Vallee's "Fleischmann Hour" and "The Guy Lombardo Program." In February 1932, they went on the air where they remained continuously until they switched to television with the same hilarious results. At the time I talked to George, he was just beginning his picture, "Oh God" with John Denver in which he plays the part of God. I asked him if he did any singing in the picture, and he said he was leaving that up to John Denver, since he felt he was older than God, and that was certainly too old to sing.

I first met Bob Hope in 1950, and was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel with him around the country when he did his "Chesterfield" radio program. I remember one occasion when Hope had a national contest in which the winner would be allowed to have the premiere of Hope's new picture, "My Favorite Spy" held in the living room of their home. The winner lived in Bel Air, Ohio and in November of 1950, the complete Hope gang: Jerry Colonna, Marilyn Maxwell, Hy Averbach and Les Brown's Orchestra plus the NBC crew flew to Ohio for the premiere and the regular Tuesday night Hope radio show.



- 2 -

Traveling with Bob Hope is like being in New Orleans at Mardi Gras time. It is a whirlwind of activity from early in the morning to the wee small hours, and Hope has been doing this for almost 40 years, since he began his Pepsodent program in 1938. When the Armed Forces Radio Service "Command Performance" went on the air in 1942, Hope was one of the first comedians to appear, and for the many years the program was on the air, Bob Hope acted as emcee more than any other entertainer. Command Performance has not been on the air for many years now, but 1977, being the 35th Anniversary since the beginning of the program, I was asked to produce a one hour special commemorating this occasion. My choice for the host was Bob Hope, and he complied laughing and clowning as he had so many times before done and introducing excerpts from past Command Performance programs. The show, incidentally, will air on various AFRTS stations around the world in September and October of this year.

Bob Hope will always have my vote as the greatest comedian and humanitarian I have ever known.

Milton Berle was on my Golden Days of Radio Television Special produced at CBS-TV and aired in June of this year. As usual, he was great, re-creating one of the monologues he had done on the radio 30 years earlier. He was also very helpful to me in the sketch which we did on the show. Milton told me that he was surprised at how few people remember him for his long career in radio, perhaps that is because he had made such a tremendous impact on television when he began the "Texaco Star Theatre" program in 1947. His first appearance on the radio was on the Rudy Vallee Show and he claims to be the first one to do the one line joke type of monologue on the air. Over the years, there were many shows in which he starred including "Shell Chateau," "Ziegfield Follies of the Air," "Stop Me if You've Heard This One," and "Let Yourself Go," which also featured funny second banana, Joe Besser. Of course, his legendary Texaco Star Theatre will never be forgotten and there is always talk about re-running some of his old programs, which would be a pleasure for all of us.

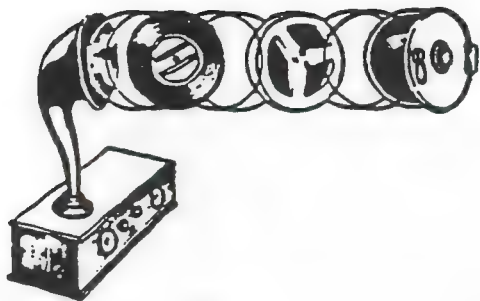
Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy were also on my TV special, as well as my guests on many of the AFRTS Golden Days of Radio Shows. One of the most interesting stories Mr. Bergen has ever told me was when Charlie McCarthy was kidnapped. It was March 14, 1939 when Mr. Bergen was in New York for a visit, and of course, had Charlie along in his special carrying case. They were staying at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Bergen went out for the evening leaving Charlie in the room. When he returned to the Hotel, about 1:30AM, there were several telephone messages from newspapers wanting to know if there was any truth to the rumor that Charlie had been kidnapped. Bergen checked the case, Charlie was gone and the police were called. Detectives went to work on the case and the FBI was notified. Then suddenly the next morning at 11:30, Charlie turned up safe and sound in the custody of the amusement editor of an afternoon newspaper who had engineered the disappearance as a practical joke. Bergen refused to prosecute, considering the gag to be a good one with no harm done. Since that time, Charlie has been kept under much tighter security and is insured for a kings ransom as well he should be. What other entertainer 56 years old, (Charlie was born in 1921) wears size 4 clothes, 2AA shoes, and 3 3/8 hat and doesn't have a line on his face.



Comedian Groucho Marx was on my show in October of last year celebrating his 86th birthday and reminiscing about his long career in show business. The Marx Brothers exploits are legendary, and to this day, Groucho continues to fill newspapers and magazines with stories of his life, his business affairs and his girlfriend. The program which I recorded with Groucho was done in his house in Truesdale and not only did he talk about his career, but he also entertained us all playing the piano and singing songs from his old movies. My final question to Groucho was, "How would you like to be remembered?" His comedic answer has always been, "Alive if possible" and I was surprised to have him say to me, "as a nice man." He certainly is, and a personality who entertained us, not only in motion pictures, but during his many radio appearances.

Radio's Golden Days can never be duplicated, and the entertainers who we have enjoyed will never be lost, because of the recordings that ~~can be~~ collected and preserved over the years.





# NORTH AMERICAN RADIO ARCHIVES

NARA was founded in 1972 as a non-profit educational corporation to serve as a source for the preservation and dissemination of information and material on the rich cultural history of old time radio.

A nationwide organization, NARA has members throughout the United States and Canada. Membership is \$20.00 per year. There is an additional charge for the catalogs of the various club libraries.

Membership offers the following benefits:

- Access to our reel-to-reel library of about 15,000 old time radio shows.
- Access to our cassette library of around 20,000 old time radio shows.
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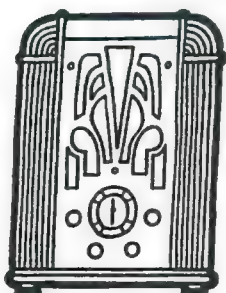
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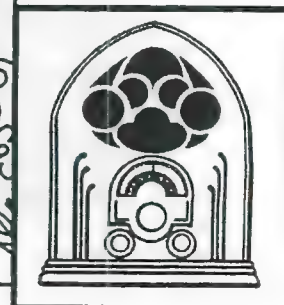
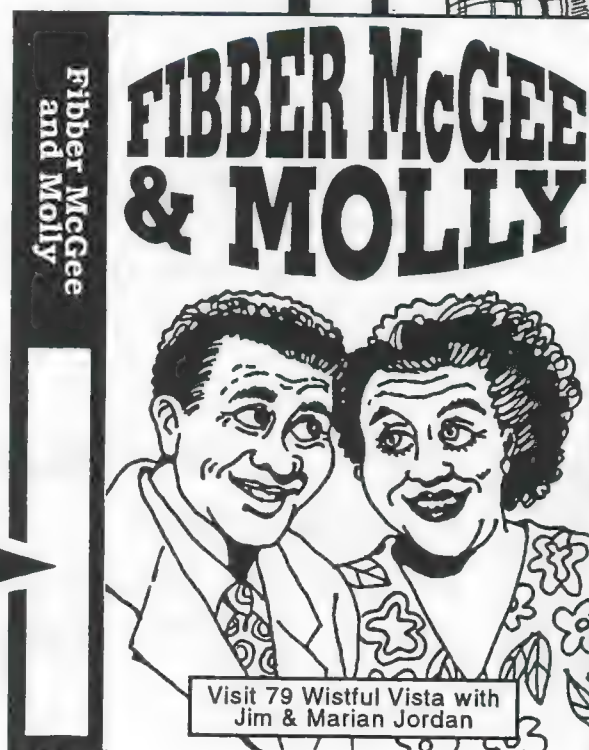
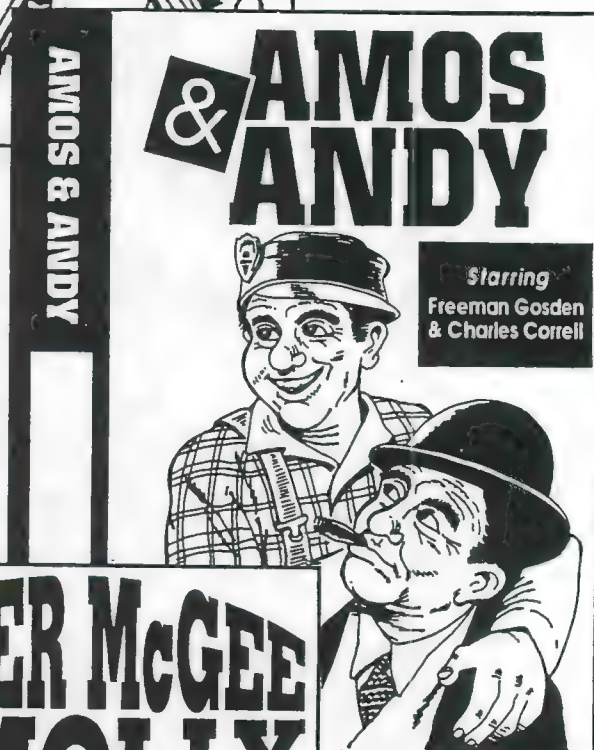
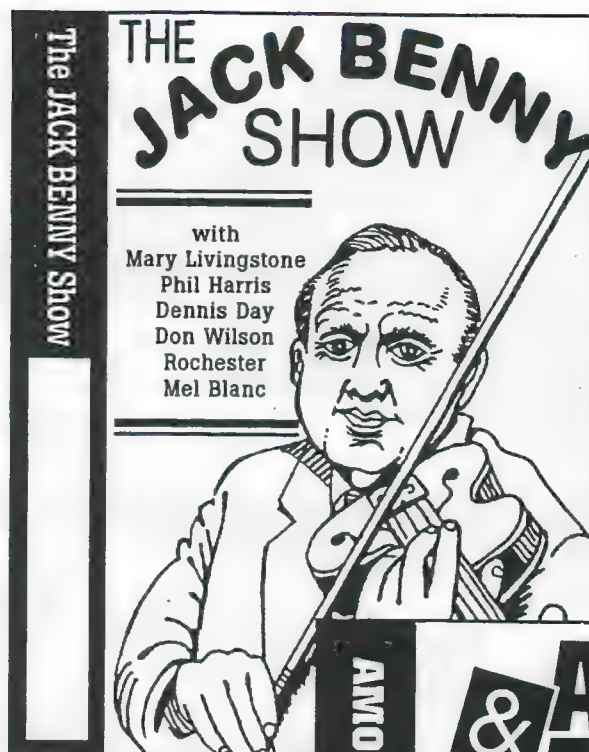
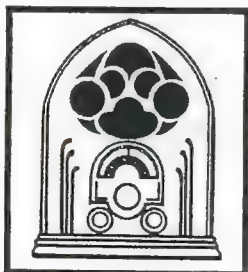
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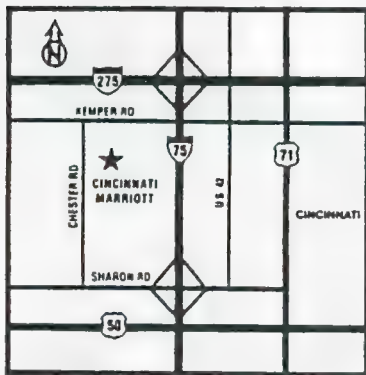
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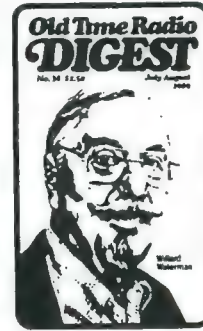
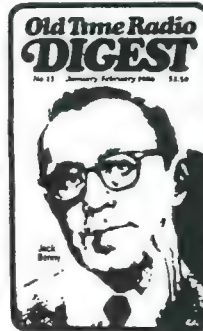
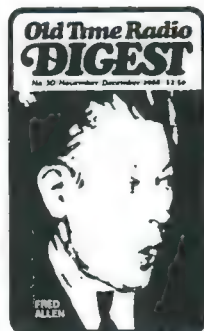
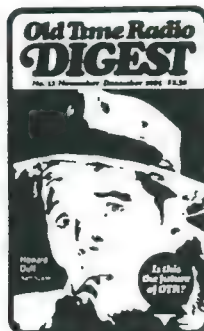
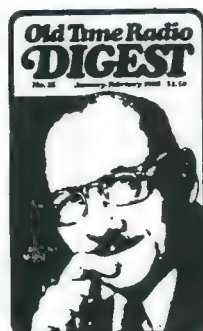
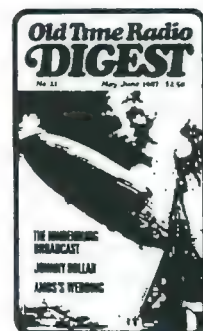
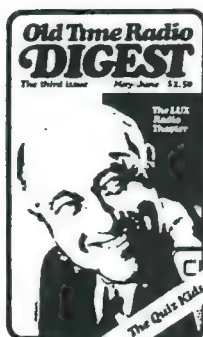
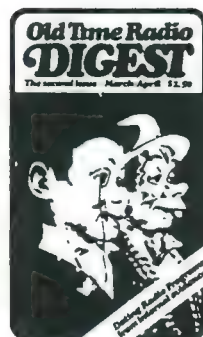
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- old radio shows and old television shows from 1950's and earlier
- old and new books by and about vintage entertainment (for browsing in the store, for rent, and for sale)
- stamps and FDCs with a theme pertaining to vintage media
- old movie/radio/tv magazines (including Radio Guide)
- old comic books with subjects based on characters in movies/radio/TV
- vintage advertising reproductions on metal (tin/steel & enamel)
- posters and lobby cards as well as arcade cards and other paper items
- jewelry and other media-theme knick-knacks as well as clothing items
- reproductions of old radios (by Thomas) and some originals too
- LP records and CDs with old radio shows and related material
- a small but growing organization: *Bayhill Vintage Media Study Group*
- rentals of TV/VCR combinations and compact stereos with record players
- conversion service of videos from PAL/SECAM to NTSC and vice versa
- custom dubbing and label making for video/audio collections
- graphics service with flatbed scanner and color inkjet printer (using Mac)

The movies on videotape we provide for rental include a variety of foreign films, usual studio releases, unusual films not commonly seen (and never found in chain video giants like Blockbuster), and many silents. Send \$1 for sample list

At present we rent and sell only locally (\$1.50 for 3 days for most items) but by April, 1996 we intend to offer rental/sales by mail. We also have a combination package which appeals to many customers. This is "5-6-7". Any 5 items (mix & match among what we can rent out) for \$6 for up to 7 days. And, of course, we encourage people to take a look at some of the interesting radio shows, television programs, and movies which they might otherwise skip over.

A person does not have to be a member to browse and buy but any rentals require purchasing a one-time membership card for \$5 (\$1 of this goes to the UCLA Film Restoration Archive). The membership card also gives the member access to many discounts, special purchases, and regularly issued catalogs of what we have for rental. The artist for our membership card logo is Gene Larson of NARA fame. A sample photocopy of the card appears below. It's light blue with navy blue logo and the thickness of a regular credit card. You can obtain one by sending us \$5 and you will receive all future mailings we provide. Only if borrowing privileges are abused do you lose your member's privileges. Then a short probationary period occurs before you may apply for another card (but at a higher cost).

We are interested in purchasing/leasing/borrowing any suitable material or items you might have along these lines. We also will accept consignments. Please see our business card reproduction on the right next to the copy of the membership card.

And with that, Lourdes and Roger Hill say "Hearty Congratulations to Friends of Old Time Radio on their 20th Anniversary Convention and a very big *"Thank You"* to Jay Hickerson and all those who put this convention together. If you are in the San Bruno area (just south of San Francisco at I-280 and San Bruno Avenue), come and sit a spell.

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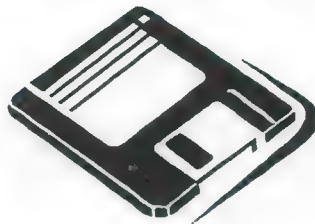
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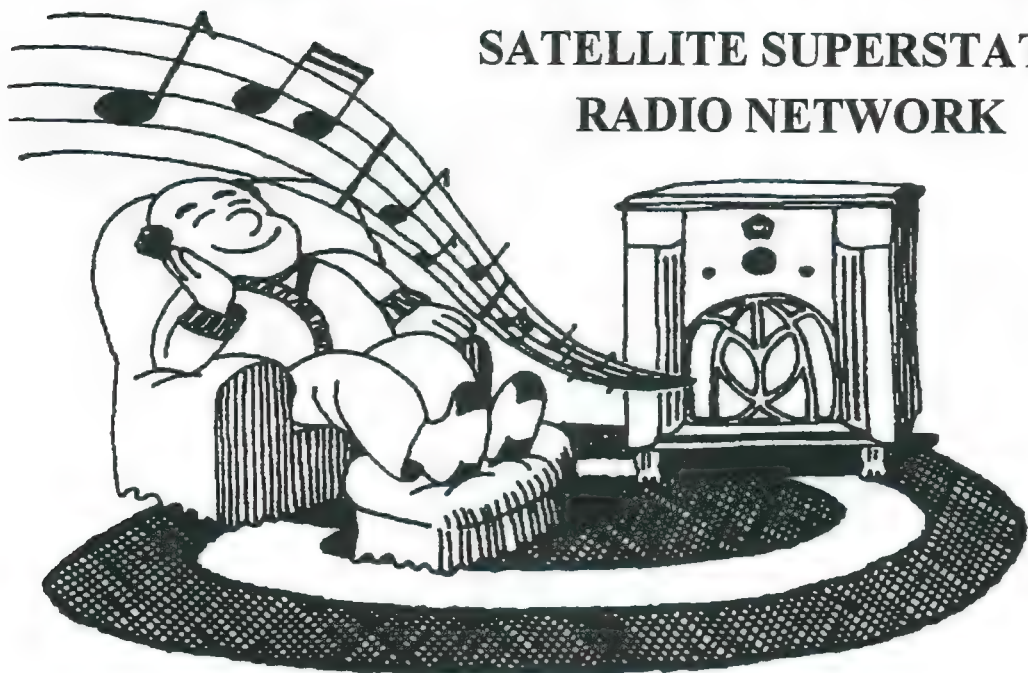
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*For up-to-date information on Radio Festival events, please call the Festival Hotline at (212)621-6709.*

**THE MUSEUM OF TELEVISION & RADIO**  
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Major funding for the First Annual Radio Festival has been provided by The Hearst Corporation, Infinity Broadcasting Corporation, The Interop Radio Store, and Norman J. Pattiz, Chairman, Westwood One Inc. Additional support has been provided by The Arbitron Company, EFM Media Management, and Gannett Broadcasting.

The Museum would also like to thank Ralph Guild and Robert F.X. Sillerman for funding the position of Radio Festival Coordinator.



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- [4] You get 14 months for the price of 12 if you join during the convention. Yearly dues carry you to December 1996.



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## LOGS AND LISTINGS FOR COLLECTORS OF OLD-TIME RADIO PROGRAMS

**HELLO AGAIN:** Now in its 26th year, Hello Again is the oldest independent newsletter dedicated to the traders and collectors of old-time radio shows. Much of the information it contains is contributed by collectors including: problems and techniques in dubbing, tape quality, what different collectors are doing and what they are looking for, updated info about new radio shows being circulated and logs related to old-time radio, deaths of radio personalities and much more. It also keeps you up to date on the annual Friends of Old-time Radio Convention. The next convention is Oct. 24 - 26, 1996 at the Holiday Inn-North, Newark, NJ.

The first issue received includes listings of all OTR clubs, publications, many dealers, all logs available and many radio stations playing OTR. It runs about 4 to 8 pages an issue.

**Subscription is \$15.00 a year** for 6 issues per year. Send a SASE for a complimentary copy. Back issues are \$2.50. Ads are accepted.

**SUSPENSE LOG:** This 50-page log lists every show chronologically and alphabetically. Each entry lists date, title, and up to 2 performers when known. It also includes an introductory part listing directors, producers, musicians, sponsors and other important information. This log was recently revised in November of 1992. **Cost is \$9.50** including P & H.

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All logs written by **Ray Stanich** and **Randy Eidemiller** are now available. Send SASE for listing. Randy wrote those with (\*)

Jay Hickerson, Box 4321, Hamden, CT 06514  
(203) 248-2887; FAX (203) 281-1322  
e-mail: JayHick@aol.com  
October, 1995





***Gale Storm***